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NRM Newsletter

Natural Resource Management

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8-2013

# Natural Resource Management Newsletter

Dave Willis

*South Dakota State University*

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# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



## Department of Natural Resource Management South Dakota State University

*Volume 72, Number 2, August 2013*

### Newsletter Update—Dave Willis (Department Head)

Thanks, everyone! We have so much newsletter material coming to us that I am going to just send out issues as they fill! Obviously, twice per year is not enough for this active department.

The banner photograph on top of this page? Well, that is a gorgeous golden trout caught by **Jake Davis** (BS 2008; MS 2012; Wildlife and Fisheries). I heard rumors that **Gene Galinat** (BS 1994; MS 2004; Wildlife and Fisheries) might also have been present. ☺

Things are progressing well for the Department of Natural Resource Management (NRM). **Dr. Troy Grovenburg** has been our primary faculty member for summer orientation and registration, and all indicators point upward for our undergraduate enrollment. That is a positive occurrence as we switch to decentralized budgeting this year, with tuition and fee dollars earned by the department actually being returned to the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Final enrollment figures will be released by the South Dakota Board of Regents in September of 2013.

Research efforts continue at high levels, and our alumni and friends should be proud of our hard-working faculty and graduate students. The university recently released the FY13 (July 2012 through June 2013) grants and contracts summary, and NRM increased from \$3.4 million in grant/contract awards in FY12 to \$3.8 million in FY13! That is quite an accomplishment given the very highly competitive grants environment after the federal budget cuts and sequestration. If it sounds like I am bragging on our faculty members, well I guess that I really am!

I caught quite a bit of grief from various folks for not providing a picture of me in the last newsletter, so here is one from May of 2013 with all three of my grandsons

in the boat! Again, I certainly would never be caught bragging on my grandsons!



Next is grandson Ryder with his new fishing rod on July 4 of this year. He caught his first walleye and his first smallmouth bass that day! Look at that skill set in reel handle manipulation! ☺



Ben Turner (Range Science) in the News - twice  
Ph.D. student **Ben Turner**, working under **Dr. Roger Gates**, was selected as the recipient of the 2013 Barry Richmond Scholarship Award by the iSeeSystems, Inc. Ben presented 2 papers at the 31st International Conference of the System Dynamics Society, in Cambridge, Massachusetts during July 2013. One of the primary sponsors for the conference is iSeeSystems. Each year they offer a graduate student scholarship to help a student attend the conference. This scholarship is given in honor of Barry Richmond, an educator and systems dynamics practitioner who was influential in promoting systems dynamics in education.

Ben also received the W.D. Farr Scholarship, sponsored by The National Cattlemen's Foundation, whose purpose is to support 2 graduate students working on issues relevant to the cattle industry. He attended the Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver, CO in August of 2013 to accept this \$12,000 award.

#### Kurt Chowanski in the News

Ph.D. student **Kurt Chowanski**, also working with **Dr. Roger Gates**, was selected as the recipient of a \$2,500 FY2013 student stipend from the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium Management Team.

#### SDSU Subunit of the American Fisheries Society

The Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program (BCYMP) hosted their annual outdoor event at Oakwood State Park on August 1. Children built bird houses, embarked on a scavenger hunt, played lawn games, and learned about canoeing and fishing. They caught some great weather, and helped to educate young students about canoeing, boat safety, and fishing. Thanks for the community service!



#### ALUMNI NEWS

##### Top Notch Taxidermy

**Tyler Erickson** (BS Wildlife and Fisheries 2007) has been making quite a name for himself as a taxidermist! His company name is Top Notch Taxidermy, and he has a great work space on a piece of property just north of Brookings. Tyler is both the Minnesota and South Dakota 2013 State Champion Fish Taxidermist. In addition, he fared quite well at the 2013 World Taxidermy Championships where he earned a 1<sup>st</sup> place for a mule deer mount, a 1<sup>st</sup> place for a bluegill/pumpkinseed hybrid replica, and a 2nd place in warmwater fish for a walleye mount. Check out Tyler's work at <http://www.tntaxidermy.com/>.

##### Bill Vodehnal receives award

The U.S. Forest Service 2013 Regional Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Partner of the Year Award was

presented to Nebraska Game & Parks Commission long-time employee, **Bill Vodehnal** (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1982). Bill's unique blend of practical experience in the region, talent for communicating with grazing permittees, and ability to infuse solid, science-based information into practical strategies has been highly valuable to the District's grazing and habitat management programs. Bill is considered to be a valuable and trusted advisor and productive partner to the District, Forest, and Region. Bill serves as the Forest Service liaison for the Bessey Ranger District, including the McKelvie National Forest. In addition, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands have been utilizing Bill in a shared position for the last 2 years. The picture below shows Dan Jiron, Regional Forester presenting Bill with a sharp-tailed grouse print (which most folks know is Bill's expertise; his career dedication is to prairie grouse management). Also present are Jane Darnell, Forest Supervisor and Jeff Abegglen, NNFG Wildlife Program Manager.



##### Baby boy Selch

Parker Mason Selch was born April 4, 2013 to parents **Trevor** (M.S. 2004; Ph.D. 2008; Wildlife and Fisheries) and Hailey Selch. Parker weighed in at 5 lb, 3 oz. Trevor provided several options on a photo, and we (Terri Symens and I) couldn't resist this one! Trevor and Hailey were married on June 4th, 2011. She is a high school business teacher, while Trevor is the fisheries toxicologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. Trevor says: "Working state-wide means a lot of windshield time, but getting paid to explore Montana isn't a bad gig. Living half-way between Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks isn't bad either. I do miss the prairie potholes of eastern SD, but I hope I never have to leave Helena."





*Parker Mason Selch.*

**Dr. Teresa (Zimmerman) Frink**, (PhD Wildlife and Fisheries 2008) is now Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Applied Sciences at Chadron State College. Congratulations, Teresa, we always knew you'd do great!

**Matt Hennen** (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences 2010) accepted a position as Fisheries Research Biologist with Minnesota DNR in Tower, MN.

**Dr. Matt Bahm** (Ph.D. Wildlife and Fisheries 2009) accepted a position at Montana Tech in Butte, MT. He will develop a Restoration Ecology program in their Department of Biology. Quite an opportunity to develop a program from the ground up, and it couldn't happen to a nicer guy!

**Ed Crozier** (B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1956) resides in Burnsville, MN, and sponsors one of our undergraduate scholarships. His lifetime career in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service involved numerous positions in the National Wildlife Refuge System, for which he received multiple honors. He published an inspiring book based on his life's work: *Dream Hunter - A National Wildlife Refuge Manager's Memoir*. Check this website for more information: <http://crozierwildlifejournal.com>.

**Jim Ray** (M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries 1990) works as a biologist for Pantex Corporation in Canyon, TX. He recently got quite a bit of press for his purple martin work. Purple martin populations are declining at 4 percent per year in some parts of North America. Pantex

has teamed up with the Purple Martin Conservation Association and is helping fund research intended to keep the birds from getting on the endangered species list. Pantex was purchased geo-locator tracking devices to be part of that effort. Jim is working with Dr. Kevin Fraiser, a post-doctorate fellow with York University in Toronto, Canada. York University is the PMCA's partner in the effort to research the migratory patterns of Purple Martins.



*Jim Ray holds a purple martin prior to attachment of a geo-locator tracking device.*

#### A Minnesota Twins Connection!

Have all our alumni and friends been following the exciting news on **Caleb Thielbar** (BS Wildlife and Fisheries 2009) as he pitches relief for the Twins this summer? I will let Argus SDSU Beat Writer Terry Vandrovec (he's a great one, by the way!) give you an update from his July 8, 2013 article in the Argus Leader.

*"Another shutout inning Saturday for Caleb Thielbar, a former South Dakota State University pitcher, gave him 19.2 scoreless innings to start his major league career.*

*Another 19.2 scoreless innings and the left-hander from Randolph, Minn., will match Brad Ziegler's major league record for scoreless innings to begin a career. Ziegler stymied batters in 2008 for the A's with 39.1 scoreless innings.*

*Thielbar might not catch Ziegler, but he has the Twins' record – not bad considering he pitched for the St. Paul Saints two years ago.*

*Then, last year, he shot up from Class A to Class AAA in two months. On May 20 of this year, he made his Twins debut with two shutout innings in Atlanta.*

*Thielbar, 26, was drafted by the Brewers out of SDSU, where he set Jackrabbit career records for games pitched and innings. But baseball's path rarely is smooth, or straight, and the wildlife and fisheries major*

*was working for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources before a second wind in the minors with the Twins. Things can change quickly.*

*Thielbar has permitted only five hits while striking out 17 and walking seven. Right-handed batters are 4-for-32 against him, and lefties are worse: 1-for-25 with 11 strikeouts.*

*Work at the DNR might have to wait."*

I checked Caleb's stats for the Twins this morning (August 6), and found the following. Wins: 2, Losses: 1, Games: 28, Innings Pitched: 28.2, Base on Balls: 11, Strikeouts: 26, Saves: 0, Earned Run Average: 0.63. Pretty darn impressive!

#### Kahara and Chipps Earn Best Paper Award

Drs. **Sharon Kahara** and **Steve Chipps** earned the Charles E. Bessey Award for the Best Paper in natural resources published in Volume 22 of *Great Plains Research*. Their paper was entitled "Wetland Hydrodynamics and Long-term Use of Spring Migration Areas by Lesser Scaup in Eastern South Dakota" and contributed substantially to current research questions regarding long-term trends for this duck species.

#### Nice photo!

Graduate student **Malia Volke** (working with **Dr. Carter Johnson**) caught this great image on a trail camera during her 2013 summer field work.



#### Update from Dr. Les Flake

**Dr. Les Flake**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus for Wildlife Sciences, stays in frequent contact with us. His June 2013 update follows: "I'm doing a little fishing, golfing, and of course still writing. Gary Peterson and I landed over 70 rainbows on Strawberry Reservoir in two days trolling with flies we tied this past Monday and

Tuesday. I use a fly rod and sinking leader and he uses spinning rods. They were only in the 11-13 inch range but lots of fun. You can only take home 4. I have taken a couple of nice browns around 16 inches in the rivers this spring. Take care. Les" I have this truly sincere feeling that Les never has and never will change. We still miss him dearly around here. He was a gem with our students, and oh so productive!

#### Lloyd and Alice Fredrickson Endowment

The **Lloyd and Alice Fredrickson** Memorial Scholarships in Wildlife Graduate Students at SDSU have now been fully endowed, thanks to a generous donation from **George and Lynne Partelow**. These scholarships support our Outstanding Fisheries Ph.D. Student and Outstanding Wildlife Ph.D. Student awards. Given the endowment, we can award these scholarships into perpetuity.

Lloyd was employed by the SDSU Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department, and deeply enjoyed hunting, fishing, the outdoors, and simple things in life. He truly enjoyed working with our graduate students. Lloyd was born February 2, 1918 in Bryant, SD; married Alice (Kothe) on May 29 of 1947; and passed away on September 26, 2002. The Fredrickson's had four children: Lynne Partelow and husband George; Alexis Regier and husband Joe; Jan Fredrickson; and Charles Fredrickson.

#### Dr. Rob Klumb – in memoriam

We were terribly saddened by the passing of **Dr. Rob Klumb**, an adjunct associate professor for our Department. Rob was a pedestrian killed by an out of control driver in Pickstown, SD, in July of 2013. Yes, alcohol apparently was involved on the part of the driver. Dr. Klumb was project leader for the Pierre office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a great friend to all of the fisheries folks in NRM. He served on many graduate committees, collaborated on many research efforts, and many of our students worked for him as undergraduate students or graduate students. His passing leaves a large void in our program here at SDSU. He is sorely missed.

To recognize his professional contributions, his colleagues and family have established two awards, one presented annually by the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and the other presented annually to an outstanding graduate student at South Dakota State University.

The Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award was established in memory of Rob Klumb, an influential U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service biologist and life member of the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). The award recognizes an outstanding graduate student in fisheries science and provides support to attend the annual meeting of the Dakota Chapter AFS. Awardees are chosen by a committee of the Dakota Chapter AFS, and selection is based on academic and research qualifications, with an emphasis on riverine fish ecology and (or) native/endangered species.

Donations to the Robert A. Klumb Memorial Award can be made to:

Dakota Chapter AFS - Klumb Fund,

and addressed to:

USGS SD Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit  
Box 2140B  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings SD 57007.

The Robert A. Klumb Award for Habitat, Aquatics, and Management of the Missouri River System (HAMMS) Award is a non-monetary recognition established in memory of Rob. The award is presented annually to an outstanding graduate student in the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University. Awardees are chosen by the NRM Scholarship and Awards committee at South Dakota State University. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in the areas of riverine fishes research, native species management, and (or) the conservation of threatened and endangered fishes.



*Dr. Robert A. Klumb in his natural environment*

Departmental Books – new (2010+) and some classics  
Berry, C., K. Higgins, D. Willis, and S. Chipps, editors.  
2007. History of fisheries and fishing in South  
Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game,

Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. 466 pages.  
Availability:

<https://apps.sd.gov/applications/GF33/Catalog.asp?dsp=6%20>

Flake, L.D., C.P. Lehman, A.P. Leif, M.A. Rumble, and D.J. Thompson. 2006. The wild turkey in South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, and South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station (SDAES B747), Brookings, South Dakota. 188 pages. Availability:

<https://apps.sd.gov/applications/GF33/Catalog.asp?dsp=6%20>

Flake, L.D., J.W. Connelly, T.R. Kirschenmann, and A.J. Lindbloom. 2010. Grouse of the plains and mountains, the South Dakota story. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. 246 pages. Availability:

<https://apps.sd.gov/applications/GF33/Catalog.asp?dsp=6%20>

Flake, L.D., A.E. Gabbert, T.R. Kirschenmann, A.P. Leif, and C.T. Switzer. 2012. Ring-necked pheasants, thriving in South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. 254 pages. Availability:

<https://apps.sd.gov/applications/GF33/Catalog.asp?dsp=6%20>

Higgins, K.F., E. Dowd Stukel, J.M. Goulet, and D.C. Backlund. 2000. Wild mammals of South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. 278 pages. Availability:

<https://apps.sd.gov/applications/GF33/Catalog.asp?dsp=6%20>

Higgins, K.F., and K.C. Jensen, editors. In press. The ducks, geese, and swans of South Dakota: Their historical ecology, research and management. Will be available soon from South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

Hoagstrom, C.W., G. Adams Jr., R.M. Neumann, and D.W. Willis. 2011. Guide to the fishes of South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. 70 pages. Availability:

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/critters/fish/common-fish.aspx>

Jenks, J.A., editor. 2011. Managing cougars in North America. Jack H. Berryman Institute Press, Utah State University, Logan, Utah. Availability: copies available from the Jack H. Berryman Institute Press, Utah State University, 5270 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84321-5270 or by email at [hwi@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:hwi@aggiemail.usu.edu).



- Johnson, W.C. (with 12 co-authors). 2011. Missouri River planning—Recognizing and incorporating sediment management. National Research Council. National Academy Press, Washington, DC. 152 pp. Availability: <http://www.nap.edu/>
- Murphy, B.R., D.W. Willis, M.L. Davis, and B.D.S. Graeb. 2010. Case studies in fisheries conservation and management: applied critical thinking and problem solving. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland. 252 pages. Availability: <http://fisheries.org/shop>
- Murphy, B.R., D.W. Willis, M.L. Davis, and B.D. S. Graeb. 2010. Instructor's guide to case studies in fisheries conservation and management: applied critical thinking and problem solving. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland. 478 pages. Availability: <http://fisheries.org/shop>
- Neal, J.W., and D.W. Willis, editors. 2012. Small impoundment management in North America. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland. 451 pages. Availability: <http://fisheries.org/shop>
- Rupp, S.P., L. Bies, A. Glaser, C. Kowaleski, T. McCoy, T. Rentz, S. Riffell, J. Sibbing, J. Verschuyt, and T. Wigley. 2012. Effects of bioenergy production on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Wildlife Society Technical Review 12-03. The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland. Availability: <http://wildlife.org/documents/technical-reviews/docs/Effects%20of%20Bioenergy%20on%20Wildlife.pdf>

This is only a very partial list of products produced by NRM faculty! See a complete list of books and book chapters from the NRM Department at: <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/publications/books.cfm>.

#### Jenks coauthor on paper republished in book

**Dr. Jon Jenks** was a coauthor on a paper entitled “Habitat selection by mule deer during migration: effects of landscape structure and natural-gas development,” published in the open-access journal Plos One. The authors recently were informed that the paper was selected to be in a book titled *The Effects of Induced Hydraulic Fracturing on the Environment: Commercial Demands vs. Soil, Water, and Wildlife*, edited by Matthew McBroom, to be published by Apple Academic Press and distributed by CRC Books, a division of Taylor and Francis. Good work is always noticed!

Check the amazing list of NRM publications at our web page: <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/publications/pubs.cfm>.

#### Chuck and Ginger Scalet to Lawrence, KS

Long-time Department Head (now Emeritus) **Dr. Chuck Scalet** and wife Ginger have lived in Brookings for over 40 years. A change will have occurred by the time this newsletter hits your inboxes! Here is a note from Ginger: “The time is rapidly approaching for us to set off on our new adventure. Monday, July 8, the moving van will begin to load us out of 828 Arrowhead Pass, and on Friday, July 12, they will unload us at 204 Knotted Bend Court in Lawrence, Kansas, 66049. We’re excited to do something new, and we’re convinced Lawrence is the place to do it.” Personally, I can’t thank Chuck and Ginger enough for all they have done for me and for our program. After all, Chuck served as department head for well in excess of 30 years! While we certainly will miss them, everyone wishes them well.



*Chuck and Ginger Scalet at their Brookings home in June of 2013. Notice any fish? ☺*

#### Scholarship spotlight: Jennings-Uppland Endowment

The recipients of the Jennings Uppland Endowment in Range Science are sophomore or above students majoring in Range Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at SDSU.

**James (Jim) Jennings** graduated from SDSU in 1952 while **Emily** graduated in 1951. The couple lives north of Spearfish, SD. The Jennings-Uppland family had a deep appreciation of the education received at SDSU. Graduates include Jim’s father, Jim, his wife, three sons, their wives, and two grandchildren. Disciplines include animal science, family and consumer science, ag education, engineering, pharmacy, and business. Jim’s employment history started as a worker at Custer State Park. He then spent 5 years with the extension service, 26 years in banking, and 30 years ranching (for 23 years banking and ranching co-existed). In 1962, they purchased a 280 acre place in Spearfish valley. A mile of Spearfish creek flows through the place that has

irrigation rights for 100 acres. In 1968, they purchased 160 acres near O'Neil Pass that enabled them to acquire a forest service grazing permit. Although not a big place, it kept the family very busy and Emily and Jim believe that it taught their four children much about efficient work habits and appreciation for good stewardship. After Jim retired from ranching, he did consulting work, which provided some of the money for the scholarship fund.



*Emily and Jim Jennings*



*Spearfish Creek on the Jennings property*



#### Hanten Scholarship now fully endowed

Dr. Carroll Hanten sent her final installment of the funding for the endowed **Robert L. Hanten** (BS Wildlife and Fisheries 1960) Memorial Scholarship this past summer. That brings the total up to approximately \$20,000, so with the current 4% return on endowments, we will be able to provide a very nice \$800 scholarship to an undergraduate student. We certainly appreciate this big effort by Carroll, her son Bob, and the extended Hanten family members who have been involved in endowing this fund. I probably am not supposed to have favorites, but Bob Hanten was one of my favorite people in the entire fisheries profession, and I will have a good feeling whenever we put his picture on the screen at the Buffalo Banquet and recognize a good student in his name.



*Bob Hanten holding a nice paddlefish along the Missouri River.*

#### Donors via SDSU Foundation (January-June 2013)

The following list represents all donations reported to me by the SDSU Foundation between January and June of 2013. I certainly do not mean to miss anyone, and the dates on which donations are reported to me are quite variable. We certainly appreciate the support of each and every one of you. Every single dollar is put to good use for the long-term good of our students.



3M - Matching Gifts, Andrew T. Kopp, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Barry H. and Jane K. Dunn, Blaine Brothers Inc., Boyer Trucks, Brookings County Pheasant Restoration Association, Brookings Wildlife Federation, Dr. Bruce Condello, Bruce H. Bleakley, Carroll Hanten, Charles R. and Marcia K. McMullen, Clifford H. Fiscus Estate, Curtis M. and Sara C. Vacek, Dakota Ethanol, LLC, David W. and Susan E. Willis, Gary E. and Pamela J. Larson, George W. and Lynne R. Partelow, James A. and Emily H. Jennings, Jayme P. and Rebecca Trygstad, Jim H. and Karen L. Schramm, JoAnn A. Willgoos, Kenneth J. Grymala, Kent A. Luttschwager, Kent C. and Sandra A. Jensen, Kristel K. Bakker, Lee Roy Mitchell, Lyle V. and Garnet Perman, Mary E. Barkworth, Nels H. Troelstrup, Jr., Paul A. Vohs, Jr., Pete and Lisa Bergmann, Pfizer Foundation, Redfield Energy, LLC, Robert Bartling, Roger N. and Vonda L. Gates, SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council, SD Walleyes Unlimited, Sioux Falls Chapter of Izaak Walton League, Stephen M. Zebarth, Troy W. Grovenburg, Valerie and Thomas M. Cheesbrough, and Xu Lan.



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***Please be sure to send all corrections for and additions to our email list! Thanks!***



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